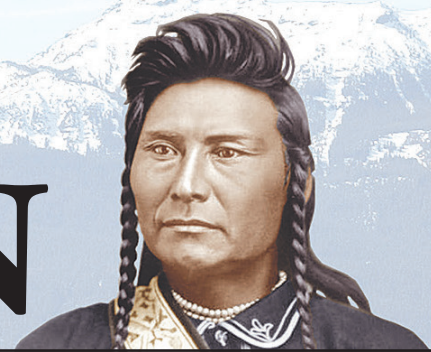




WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

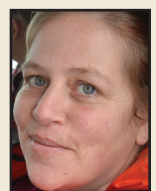


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Wallowa County Voices



Bobbie Rhodes
Wallowa

Senior caregiver says county is 'home'

ENTERPRISE — Bobbie Rhodes has lived in Wallowa all of her 41 years.

"It's home," she said, adding that she's never really considered living anywhere else.

She's a caregiver at the Wallowa Valley Senior Living Center in Enterprise, having studied nursing at Walla Walla Community College after graduating from Wallowa High School. She works in the memory care ward, helping residents who have Alzheimer's Disease and dementia with their day-to-day hygiene, care and keeping their memories active.

Rhodes recently shared her thoughts about living in Wallowa County.

What's your favorite thing about Wallowa County?

The mountains. They're beautiful. That's why I like them.

What are you looking forward to in 2022?

To be healthier.

Did you make a New Year's resolution?

No, it seems like I always fail at them.

Did you get what you wanted for Christmas?

Love and to be with my family.

What's your advice for people who are thinking about moving here?

Don't. We don't need any more people. They can come and visit, and then go on their way. We have enough (people). I want it to be more like it was back in the old days when we had friendlier people. The county seems to be getting less friendly.

— Bill Bradshaw,
Wallowa County Chieftain



Destiny Wecks will be crowned as Miss Teen Rodeo Oregon during an event at the Elks Lodge in Enterprise on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022.
Jeff Wong/Contributed Photo

ASSUMING OFFICE

Destiny Wecks officially steps into role as Miss Teen Rodeo Oregon

By RONALD BOND
Wallowa County Chieftain

JOSEPH — Destiny Wecks is officially in the saddle as Miss Teen Rodeo Oregon, a title the former Chief Joseph Days co-queen will hold throughout 2022.

Wecks, 18, will be honored during an event at the Enterprise Elks Lodge at 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, unofficially kicking off a year of promoting the sport she has come to love.

"Yes, it's kind of exciting," Wecks said during a Dec. 30 interview of settling into the role, "but also (at) the same time a little nerve-racking ... not exactly sure what the year has to bring



Robert McLean/Contributed Photo

Destiny Wecks, shown with Opie, will be crowned as Miss Teen Rodeo Oregon during an event at the Elks Lodge in Enterprise on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022.

and what to expect."

One thing Wecks does know is that she will be busy. She has

a goal of trying to attend a rodeo almost every weekend, and at each one will be doing what

she can to help the events she is attending.

"My plan is to go to as many rodeos across the Pacific Northwest as I can," she said. "I will be doing grand entry with the other rodeo queens, I can help with selling programs, autograph signing during and after, as well as if they need help in the arena moving cattle, setting up barrels, (or running a) sponsor flag. I will be able to speak on radio if other rodeos need it, (or) luncheons for myself promoting tryouts."

It's the third of what Wecks hopes eventually will be five rodeo titles. She previously has donned a crown in her rodeo career as Miss Rodeo Oregon Sweetheart and Junior Miss Rodeo Oregon. The next one hopefully on the slate is Miss Rodeo Oregon, and the top hope is Miss Rodeo America, which, if garnered, would make her the first Oregonian to hold each honor. Mackenzie Carr Ivie is the only Oregonian to be named Miss Rodeo America.

Wecks wants to use her position in promotion to help the next generation learn about rodeo and the lifestyle of the West. One of her dreams, she said, is "to really

See Rodeo, Page A13

Cattle investigation continues

Owner's wife blames the ranch manager

By BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — Wallowa County Sheriff Joel Fish said his office's investigation continues into possible animal neglect at Dean Oregon Ranches and other cattle stranded in the mountains by snowstorms remains ongoing.

"I do not have any specific number of cows that have been gathered or died," Fish said. "The staff for Dean Oregon Ranches are collecting the cattle. Most of the cattle belong to Dean Oregon Ranches."

The sheriff said he expects the investigation to take time as his office gathers statements from those involved.

County Commissioner Todd Nash, who is a rancher and often addresses agricultural issues on the Board of Commissioners, said Fish's statement of Dec. 31 that the county was "moving toward seizing the Dean Oregon Ranch" was not exactly accurate. Nash said it's the cattle — not the ranch itself — that may be seized and it



Craig Stockdale/Contributed Photo

This cow had to be euthanized after being stuck in deep snow in the Upper Imnaha area recently. A massive effort to rescue the cows and their calves on the Bob Dean Oregon Ranch has been made by ranch workers, county officials and volunteers.

is unknown if the small number of cattle owned by other ranchers would be included.

"We're looking at seizing the livestock," Nash said. "We're in the process of considering that."

He said there is no timeline in sight, as the proper legal measures must be taken, such as Fish's investigation.

"We need to have all our ducks in a row," the commissioner said.

Wife speaks up

But Karen Dean, wife of Bob Dean, the owner of the ranch in the Upper Imnaha area where cattle have been freezing or rescued from it for the past few weeks, was defensive of her ailing husband during a telephone interview from her Georgia home.

See Cattle, Page A13

Dead wolf found in Wallowa County was likely shot

EO Media Group

Oregon State Police are seeking information about a dead wolf that was found in Wallowa County after apparently being shot by a firearm.

A citizen reported the wolf carcass to OSP about 10:36 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8. The wolf was along Parsnip Creek Road about six miles southeast of Wallowa.

The wolf, which was fitted with a tracking collar, is a two-year-old female that had dispersed from the Chesnimus Pack, according to a press release from OSP.

The initial investigation showed the wolf had been fatally shot.

OSP is urging anyone with information regarding this case to call the Oregon State Police TIP line at 1-800-452-7888, *OSP (*677), or email at TIP@state.or.us. Reference case No. SP22006179.

